

POLTICIANS ARE NO-SHOWS IN COURT FORMER MLA TO PLEAD NOT GUILTY (page 3)

YOU EITHER HAVE IT OR YOU DON'T' **CHATTING WITH** KURT BROWNING (page 8)



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Weekend, April 21-24, 2011 www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



Iggy gets down

Michael Ignatieff was back in the province for the second time during the election campaign. Prime Minister Stephen Harper returns to the province Thursday when he visits Cape Breton.

You may be in for a shock

Nova Scotia Power expected to file base rate increase application later this year • Province to be present at UARB hearing

• Customers should see more price stability in 3 to 5 years: Gallant



The province's energy utility says it's facing higher costs — and it's asking consumers how they'd like to pay.

Nova Scotia Power Inc. held a meeting with consumer advocates on Wednesday to discuss their rising costs and a potential 7.1 per cent increase on residential power bills.

The utility has not made a request for the rate increase to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, and has no immediate plans to do so. But according to Rene Gallant, NSPI's general manager of regulatory affairs, higher costs are coming as early as 2012.

What we said to people ... is look; if we can see what's coming, why don't we talk about something that could be done over two, three or four years," said Gallant.

NSPI is also considering an increase of six per cent in the commercial rate, and a 10 per cent increase in industrial costs.

Gallant noted the utility hasn't changed its base rate in about three years. But he acknowledged a year after NSPI hiked rates due to the cost of fuel, the news may not be overly palatable for ratepayers.

"We know that people aren't going to be happy that rates might have to go up, and we're not happy as well," he said.

"(But) we can't control things like global coal pricing ... (and) year over year those kind of things can happen."

Premier Darrell Dexter said the potential of higher energy costs for Nova Scotians is "very concerning." "It makes life harder for people,"

he said.



"My hope is that (NSPI is) able to find a way to lessen the burden on ratepayers, but the reality is they have to go to the Utility and **Review Board to justify** their costs."

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MLAs leave it to the lawyers

- Accused politicians absent for arraignment at Halifax provincial court No decision on whether other politicians will be called to witness stand
- ► Chief Crown Attorney Andrew MacDonald, middle, speaks with reporters at Halifax provincial court on Wednesday.



A new chapter in the ongoing MLA expense saga began on Wednesday, with lawyers for the four accused appearing on behalf of their clients in court.

The past and present MLAs Trevor Zinck, Richard Hurlburt, Dave Wilson, and Russell MacKinnon — did not show up to face the cameras — or the

Instead, their lawyers

waived reading of their charges and set a date to set a date for further hearings.

MacKinnon was the only one of the four who elected for the type of trial by Supreme Court judge alone.

The other three will have to decide that in the coming months - Zinck by May 20, Hurlburt by June 21, and Wilson by July 7.

On those respective dates, the three can elect for a number of options trial in provincial or Supreme Court, by judge and jury or by judge alone.

MacKinnon's defence lawyer, Joel Pink, told reporters outside the courtroom his client will be pleading not guilty.

"Based on our review of the evidence, it's our intention to plead not guilty," Pink said.

Zinck, the only sitting politician charged in the RCMP's probe, reiterated he intends to clear his name.

"I've stayed around for this last year for obvious reasons," he said on the way into the legislature

Crown statement

"We will be reviewing the material, and firmly and fairly presenting the evidence to the court, and trying these individuals as we would any other individuals charged with criminal offences," said Chief Crown Attorney Andrew Macdonald.

"If you add it up, why would anybody want to go through this if they have done anything illegally?'

MLAs facing charges

Trevor Zinck Charges: Fraud over \$5,000, two counts theft over \$5,000, breach pub lic trust. **Next court** date: May 20



Richard Hurlburt Charges: Fraud over \$5,000, three counts uttering forged document; breaching public trust. Next court date: June 21



Dave Wilson Charges: Fraud over \$5,000,31 counts uttering forged document: breaching public trust. Next court date: July 7



MacKinnon Charges: Fraud over \$5,000, three counts uttering forged document: breaching public trust. Next court date: June 21

news



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If you're the kind of person to have a royal wedding viewing party, here's what to feed your guests. Video at metronews.ca





Prescription drug deaths probed by health minister

Working group also set up to examine law enforcement concerns about prescription drug abuse

Nova Scotia's health minister says recent deaths related to prescription drugs in the Annapolis Valley will be examined.

Maureen MacDonald says she wants to look at the issue from a public health perspective after concerns were raised by police and community organizations.

Kentville, police Chief Mark Mander says he raised the issue with the provincial government 15 months ago, and since then at least nine people have died in the

Richard Gould, medical officer of health for the Annapolis Valley, Southwest and South Shore, will work with the Annapolis Valley District Health Authority to look into the deaths.

MacDonald says Gould will report on any patterns he finds and he will also work with Mander.

"Mental health and addictions are a priority for government, and I am concerned about this very complex issue," MacDonald said. "We decided the best course of action is to engage Dr. Gould to determine the facts and report on any patterns he finds related to these unfortunate deaths.'

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rural area customers to get high-speed Internet: Official

The province says it is close to providing highspeed, broadband Internet service to any customer in the province who wants it.

Ian Thompson, deputy minister of Economic and Rural Development, told a legislature committee on Wednesday there's now a waiting list of just 600 customers who have asked for the service.

He also said the province is going to stay within its \$19.5-million budget to help two telecom companies build a wireless network that can reach every residence or business in a province of rolling hills and deep val-

The project, which started in 2007, had originally aimed for completion by the end of 2009, but Thompson said that deadline was too ambitious due to the terrain and unexpected technical glitches.

The program started by the previous Conservative government uses a network of towers and repeater poles to reach rural locations everywhere in the province.

Thompson said the federal government budgeted \$14.5 million to help create the network, while private telecom firms Seaside and Eastlink had budgeted \$41 million.

Nancy Flam, the director of the broadband project, said the customers without service are scattered throughout the province.

"It could be somebody with a steel roof or living behind a mountain ... in a number of instances they have to get power to the repeater poles and there's a long lineup for that," she

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bankruptcy

- A company that received \$1 million from the Nova Scotia government to provide Internet service to parts of the Halifax region recently filed for bankruptcy.
- Omniglobe Networks Inc. of Montreal had a contract to provide service to 1,300 civic addresses.
- The province has said there were some service disruptions following the bankruptcy filing.



Honorary degrees to be handed out

Phyllis Yaffe and Samantha Nutt will be honorary degree recipients at Mount Saint Vincent University's 2011 spring Convocation ceremonies

Yaffe has been a major player in Canadian cultural industries while Nutt has spent more than a decade working as a physician in war-torn regions. • metro

in Halfax begins

Mother Nature didn't get the memo but as of today it is patio season in HRM.

The weather, however, doesn't seem to be cooperating. There were ice pellets on Wednesday and although Environment Canada is calling for 11C on Thursday, there will be rain and fog.

IENNIFER TAPLIN

Patio season | Strike is over, union savs

A week-old strike has ended. The 33 employees at the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority went on strike on April 14 over wage parity issues.

On Wednesday their union, Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, sent out a statement announcing the employees have signed a contract and the strike is over. metro



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Take the heel-toe express

The walk started by the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion in Dartmouth and was organized by Halifax Regional Municipality and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Home prices up

For the province, sales down 6.2 per cent overall compared with first three months of last year ◆ Average price is up slightly at 3 per cent



Homebuyers in HRM are paying a little more for houses today then they were this time last year.

This is even though total sales of houses in the region are on the decline.

According to a report issued Wednesday by the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors, the average price of a home sold in the Hali-

fax region for the first quarter of 2011 is \$257,261. That is an increase of 3.8 per cent.

But for actual sold homes in the region, there is an 11 per cent decrease from last year, to 2,891.

Karen Edwards, the former president of the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors, said it's no surprise sales are down even though it's a more balanced market "When listings are down there are less properties from which buyers can choose from," she said. "People feel safer holding on to their investments these days."

Edwards said the market has remained steady through tough economic times and because of this people are more cautious, resulting in more of a "wait and see" attitude.

When it comes to the fu-

ture of the housing market in Nova Scotia, Edwards did not want to make any predictions.

"Nova Scotia is made up of such widely divergent communities and widely divergent housing markets," she said. "Even in a single community houses can have a massive range in price.

"I wouldn't want to be the one to have to predict that," she laughed. LEGISLATION

N.S. to regulate body armour

Nova Scotia is going to regulate the sale and possession of body armour.

Justice Minister Ross Landry says it's a reasonable safety measure because more people involved in criminal activity are wearing armour.

He says the legislation will be based on laws in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba where only people who legitimately need body armour can have it.

Individuals without a permit or licence to possess or sell body armour can be charged and the product seized.

Police officers, sheriffs, corrections officers, armoured car guards, security guards and others who wear armour as part of their jobs would be exempt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Four charged in drug deals

Four people face charges after police say a drug deal resulted in a search of a Halifax residence on Tuesday night.

Police say they were in the area of Evans Avenue and Titus Street around 7:30 p.m. when they observed a drug transaction.

Two men were arrested and some crack cocaine was allegedly seized.

Police then went to a residence on Evans Avenue where a man and two women were arrested without incident.

A search was conduct-

Trafficking

Facing charges of drug trafficking and drug possession are Roderick Brian Redmond, 50, Krista Beth Andrews, 31, Jennifer Lindsay Purcell, 29, and William Patrick Briand, 46.

ed where police say they found quantities of crack cocaine, Hydromorphone, Clonazepam and drug paraphernalia.

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▶ Kurt Browning will undoubtedly bring the fans out of their seats with his performance tonight.

Bringing the party to the ice

• I work really hard ... to make sure my audience is included': Browning



He's a Canadian who needs little introduction.

Four-time national and world figure skating champion Kurt Browning is in Halifax for tonight's Sears Stars on Ice at the Metro Centre.

Browning took some time to speak with Metro about the sport he loves — and which made him famous.

MH: What keeps you motivated to keep doing this? It's been over two decades now.

KB: If you want to forget romance, it's my job. That's what I do.

MH: Do you love it as much today as you did when you first started?

KB: It's tempered. It's changed. You know, as any marriage goes along, the

marriage might be still strong, it's just being held together in different ways. My knees don't let me do what I want them to do but then again my being around for so long lets me do things that I didn't think I could ... you know, when you used to like to go for jogs, now you appreciate a nice walk. So, I think I'm still viable.

MH: How has figure skating changed over the years? Is there a point that figure skaters can't do any more?

KB: It's strange. I actually thought the quad would be even more accessible by this point. I went down to visit Patrick Chan in Colorado Springs and I got to see how he approached learning the quad and it was so scientific. I went to the rink by myself, alone late at night so no one would see me because I thought they would laugh at me doing four revolutions. And he's got a com-

puter that analyzes exactly when he's in the jump he should start rotating, and how long he needs to be in the air. So I really think it's going to become more common real fast.

MH: You always seem to love the show of skating. What is it about being out there and performing that you love so much.

KB: You either have it or you don't. My seven-year-old will have nothing to do with soccer, baseball. I put rollerblades on him, and he starts tap-dancing. He just has the bug. He just needs to make people smile. So I'm doing something I love and people want me to do it. I mean, could there be a better job?

MH: Why do you think you connect so well with Canadians?

KB: I consider myself super-Canadian. I don't know, actually. I think people trust

Sears Stars on Ice

When: Tonight, 7 p.m.Where: Halifax Metro

Centre

- ► Taking the ice: Scheduled list of skaters include Kurt Browning, Evan Lysacek, Joannie Rochette, Jamie Salé and David Pelletier, Sasha Cohen, Jeffrey Buttle, and Shawn Sawyer
- ► Tickets: Adult tickets range from \$32 to \$117. Visit ticketatlantic.com

me, I guess. People just sort of, over the years, have come to either like or not really like my product. And if they do like it, they like it a lot because I work really hard on going on the ice and trying to make sure my audience is included. Too many skaters, especially young competitive ones, forget that the audience wants to be brought to the party. And I love to skate, so I think it's kind of infectious.



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Cleaner says work at PM's residence led to cash under the table

- Dulle immigrated to Canada a decade ago and has four children
- Claims she was handed cash payments for cleaning 24 Sussex Drive

A Somali-Canadian single mother who said she was paid under the table to clean the prime minister's residence skipped a news conference Wednesday where she was set to air her complaints.

Zahra Bulle spoke to The Canadian Press the evening before, describing how she had done janitorial work inside 24 Sussex Drive last year. She said she was paid in cash by a contracting company and felt uncomfortable about it.

The organizers of the event, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), said Bulle got cold feet after receiving a late-night call from



her employer.

They are still moving ahead with a

legal complaint based on allegations Bulle and other workers were threatened with dismissal if they tried to organize.

They are filing complaints with the Ontario Labour Relations Board and the federal Labour Department.

"I'm urging the government to protect workers like me in their government buildings," Bulle said in a written statement read out at the news conference.

The company in question, Cleanmatters Janitorial Services Inc., operates in several government buildings across the city.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Saintly statue located

Quebec provincial police say a six-foot tall, 1,000-pound statue stolen earlier this week was found between Montreal and Quebec City. Bandits made off with the 85-year-old monument sometime Tuesday.

Mom given 12 years for suffocating toddler

A Manitoba mother who suffocated her young daughter while the two were staying at a women's shelter has been sentenced to 12 years behind bars.

Nicole Redhead, who as a child witnessed her mother kill her father, had pleaded guilty to manslaughter last year.

Redhead, 29, had her three children taken away by Child and Family Services but regained custody of her toddler, Jaylene, in 2009. Court heard how Redhead was in a woman's shelter that summer when she became violent with the crying two-year-old.

She held her hand over her daughter's mouth until the youngster stopped breathing and did not call for help. During the autopsy, medical examiners found 30 separate bruises over the child's body including some that had not yet risen to the surface.

Chief Justice Glenn Joy-

"One need only count to 70 and reflect upon what it was the accused was doing to a helpless 20-month-old child to realize the utter senselessness of such an act."

CHIEF JUSTICE GLENN JOYAL

al said the 20-month-old's death was the culmination of "gruesome abuse."

"Having already caused the injuries that gave rise to what I was told reasonably would have been cries of pain by the deceased, the accused then placed her hand over the deceased's mouth for between 70 seconds and two minutes," Joyal said in his decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Haunting past

- ▶ Judge acknowledged Redhead's own "horrific family background," which included witnessing her father's murder at age nine at the hands of her mother in a "drunken rage."
- But Joyal said she didn't take advantage of the support available to her in the women's shelter.
- She suffered abuse as a preteen and eventually became addicted to crack cocaine and earning a living as a prostitute.
- As a child she was bounced around between five foster homes.
- ▶ Defence lawyer says an appeal of court decision is being considered.









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We're warming up to Iggy, poll suggests

Liberal leader tied with PM in popularity D But Jack still far ahead

Nuts and bolts

- The trend: The survey suggests Michael Ignatieff has seen his popularity spike recently while Stephen Harper's has fallen.
- The figures: Ignatieff was viewed favourably by 42 per cent of respondents and negatively by 50 per cent. Harper was viewed favourably by 43 per cent and unfavourably by 52 per cent.
- The statistics: The poll of 1,000 Canadians, conducted from April 14-17, is considered accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20



new poll suggests Michael Ignatieff has made significant gains in personal popularity and is now tied with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The Canadian Press

Harris-Decima survey suggests the Liberal leader has regained the ratings he held in 2009.

However, Jack Layton, leader of the popularity contest, was viewed favourably by 68 per cent of respondents - and unfavourably by 26 per cent.

Harris-Decima

man Allan Gregg said: "To date, these differences have not manifested themselves in any significant way in voter preference.

"But, if they do, we might expect to see this race become tighter over the next two weeks.

"Stay tuned." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Strategic-vote fans have a strategy — social media

The strategic-vote advocates are at it again.

They're armed with social media and intriguing, interactive websites.

As is often the custom midway through election campaigns, some who cringe at the thought of the incumbent party winning are trying to pool votes to sway the results.

It has never worked on a large scale in Canada and

its detractors warn that strategic voting could actually do more harm than good.

Nonetheless, the advocates say strategic voting can indeed work in some elections and their anti-Conservative campaigns are gaining momentum.

Project Democracy says it has registered 900,000 page views since it launched its website a

week ago. Gary Shaul's group, Catch 22, has raised \$15,000 and is about to launch a low-key advertising and flyer campaign. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOTICE: Easter Collection & Processing Services Garbage/Organics/Recyclables

Residents of Halifax Regional Municipality are advised that there will be no garbage, organics or recyclables collection services on Good Friday, April 22, 2011. Collection services for that day will be provided the next day, Saturday, April 23, 2011.

No Collection Good Friday

Collection will occur Saturday, April 23rd

Otter Lake Facility Closed

Friday, April 22nd Sunday, April 24th



Otter Lake Facility Open

Saturday, April 23rd, 7am to 7pm Monday, April 25th, 7am to 7pm

HRM Recycling Plant Closed

Friday, April 22nd Sunday, April 24th



HRM Recycling Plant Open Saturday, April 23rd. 7:30am to 6pm Monday, April 25th, 7:30am to 6pm

Collection services can begin as early as 7:00am. To ensure collection, residents may place materials curbside the evening prior to collection day.

For more information on HRM's composting and recycling programs, check your 2011 collection schedule, visit our website at www.halifax.ca/recycle or call 490-4000.

The Halifax Regional Municipality's residential Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot will be Closed Saturday, April 23rd, but will be Open on Saturday, April 30th from 9 am to 4 pm.





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Texas fire rages on

▶ Firefighters optimistic with a 20 to 30 per cent chance of rain ▶ Rain only forecast for some areas

Firefighters in Texas were battling several massive blazes across the state Wednesday, adding up to more than 400,000 hectares of land burned in a little more than a week in the drought-stricken state.

The fire started Friday in the Possum Kingdom Lake area, a community of mostly weekend homes about 115 kilometres west of Fort Worth. It spread into two other counties and was still raging well into Tuesday night. That's when authorities ordered the 400 residents of Palo Pinto, about 80 kilometres west of Fort Worth, to leave because of the advancing flames, said Trooper Gary Rozzell of the Texas Department of Public Safety. The county's jail inmates also evacuated, as did the nearby community of Graford and the small town of Strawn, south of the lake.

Firefighters had some hope as rain and higher humidity levels were forecast for the rest of the week in parts of the state.

A 20 to 30 per cent chance of rain was forecast for Wednesday and Thursday in the North Texas area, said Daniel Huckaby, of the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

"Some areas will get some rainfall, but unfortunately most will not. And with the chaotic wind that thunderstorms can produce, and the lightning they can produce, that can make matters worse," Huckaby said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS











Harper clad in plaid

○ Website mocking old photos of candidates expected to hit a million views ○ Plenty of mop-top hairdos and large-frame glasses to snicker at



Bet Stephen Harper never thought a photo of himself in his university days would go viral.

Thanks to a new website, vintagevoter.ca, photos of Harper and the other national party leaders in their "glory" days are all over Twitter and Facebook.

The site, which has published photos of Harper, Elizabeth May, Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe in their younger years, was created by Winnipegger David Liebl, 31, and two friends.

"Certainly, we never expected it to be this popular," said Liebl.

Liebl said vintagevoter.ca has been a Twitter trending "We're, as you say, equal in who we make fun of."

DAVID LIEBL, 31, WHO FOUNDED VINTAGEVOTER.CA

topic since its launch.

Liebl calls the site a satirical look at national politics, and he hopes the site will encourage people to become more engaged in the political process.

"I won't suggest that looking at the site translates into a vote at the box, but it's my hope ... that people will become more engaged and aware of Canadian politics."

Liebl said he has had responses from at least one political party and he's hoping other camps will submit photos of their leaders in their younger days.

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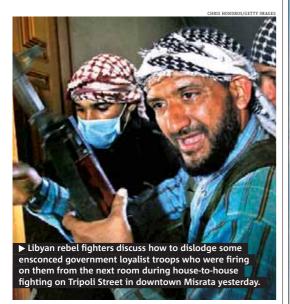
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Gadhafi forces intensify assault

Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, besieged by government forces • France vows to step up airstrikes

Inside the besieged city of Misrata, spent rockets protrude from the pavement of a parking lot, unarmed teenagers prepare plastic crates of Molotov cocktails, and fighters at roadblocks sit inside empty shipping containers outfitted with furniture, carpets and generator-powered TVs, watching Al-Jazeera reports of their war with Moammar Gadhafi.

For nearly two months, Gadhafi's forces have laid siege to the only major city in western Libya still in opposition hands, and its residents said the attacks have been relentless and hundreds of people have been killed.

The number of artillery shells and mortars is truly amazing," said Abdul-Athim Salim, a geography professor at the local university. "The only break is when they are changing ammunition. Other than that, it's continuous. It just keeps going. Boom, boom, boom!" Gadhafi's forces have in-

tensified their assault on Libya's third-largest city, firing tank shells and rockets into residential areas, according to witnesses.

NATO commanders have admitted their airpower is limited in being able to protect civilians in a city the core mission of the international air campaign.

Gadhafi's government has come under sharp international criticism for its assault on Misrata and been accused by human rights groups of using heavy weapons, including shells, missiles and cluster bombs. Such bombs can cause indiscriminate casualties and have been banned by many countries.

Libyan officials have persistently denied the army is shelling Misrata or using cluster bombs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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It's 'impossible' to save: Survey

Repaying debt is only going to get harder as spiking inflation drives interest rates up, experts say

Nearly one-third of Canadians don't have enough money to cover living expenses, while 38 per cent have no savings at all, says a survey from TD Bank.

And with interest rates expected to rise this summer, clearing debts probably won't get any easier.

"I think it's worrisome," said Carrie Russell, senior vice-president of retail banking at TD Canada Trust.

The online survey based on a representative sample of 1,003 adults says 30 per cent of Canadians don't have enough money to cover rent and food bills.

Busted

In the Atlantic provinces, 22 per cent of respondents said they found saving "impossible," and 43 per cent said any leftover money was being used to pay down debt.

The respondents said their top goals were: Saving for retirement (73 per cent), paying off credit cards (72 per cent) and major purchases or vacations (53 per cent each).

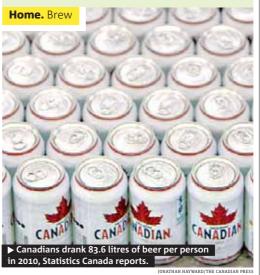
Russell said 12 per cent of those surveyed couldn't save because "they shopped beyond their means." Nineteen per cent under the age of 35 said they spent too much on shopping, she added.

"This really comes down to the age-old question of budgeting, choices and skills required in making plans for a healthy financial future."

On the flip side, 30 per cent of Canadians said they had enough money saved to cover living expenses for at least four months.

Russell recommends a cushion of three to six months of income saved to get through unexpected financial shocks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A hiccup in beer sales

Canadians drank \$9.2 billion worth of beer — or 83.6 litres per person — in 2010, up 3.8 per cent from the previous year, Statistics Canada reports. But while beer remains the country's favourite alcoholic thirst-quencher, its market share has in fact declined to 46 per cent from 52 per cent a decade ago. Meanwhile, wine consumption continues to grow, with share for wine rising to 29 per cent last year from 23 per cent in 2009.

Funny money takes bank aback

A panic ensued in Harare on Wednesday after an automated teller machine dished out defunct Zimbabwe dollars while it was being repaired. Irate customers thronged the Interfin bank downtown as rumours spread that the old currency was back in circulation.

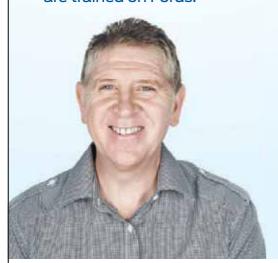
Zimbabwe abandoned its own currency in 2009 and adopted the U.S. dollar in an attempt to halt record inflation and end the use of huge denominations of bills in millions, billions and trillions during the nation's decadelong economic meltdown.

The Interfin bank said the error occurred when technicians tested the ATM with the old currency and forgot to take it out of the machine.

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Food fight dishing up great deals

● Metro and other chains wage war against Wal-Mart with deep discounts, but it won't last forever

Some food prices are rising but consumers continue to see great deals as retailers fight to compete with Wal-Mart, the head of Metro Inc. said Wednesday.

day.

"Promotional prices are very, very aggressive because of the competitive situation," president and CEO Eric La Fleche said.

Wal-Mart is responsible for most of the added grocery-store square footage in Quebec and Ontario, while Sobeys rebranded its Price Chopper discount chain to FreshCo. in Canada's largest province.

Competition is expected to accelerate in Quebec when the world's largest retailer begins selling a full range of groceries at Wal-Mart Supercentres, as the U.S. retail giant does

Chain gang

- Metro is Quebec's leading grocery chain with nearly 34 per cent market share.
- It operates a network of close to 600 food stores under several banners including Metro, Metro Plus, GP, Super C and Food Basics, as well as more than 250 drugstores under the Brunet, Brunet Plus, Clini Plus, The Pharmacy and Drug Basics banners.
- ➤ The chain employs more than 65,000 workers in Quebec and Ontario.
- Prices of milk, bread, meat and some produce have started to increase. But promotional prices remain unchanged.
- The company said its new loyalty-card program in Quebec is surpassing expectations.

in other markets including Ontario.

La Fleche said the deals will continue for now, "but at some point, some of those promotional prices could perhaps increase.

"Consumers will dictate what we can do and we intend to remain very price competitive."

Metro said its secondquarter profits rose by 3.7 per cent to \$83.3 million despite a slight dip in revenues. That was up from \$80.3 million in the first quarter of 2010.

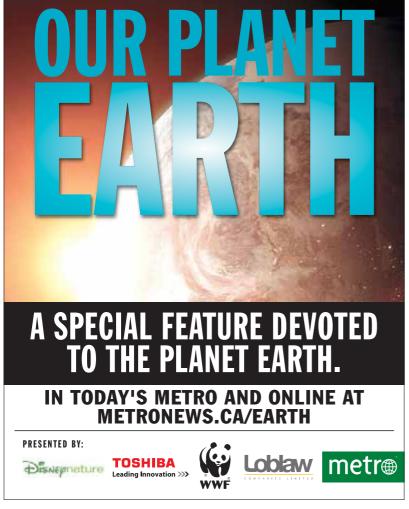
La Fleche said inflation started to kick in after the quarter, but Metro hasn't felt the full impact of the increases because consumers tend to stop buying the products whose prices have increased.

THE CANADIAN PRESS













WHAT WILL THE PUNDITS SAY?

Whether you're new to the country, new to voting, or just an ignouramous (note the Canadian spelling), you may be confused by some of the lingo you've been hearing since the "writ" was "dropped" in our "democracy." If that sounds like you, then here's a special glossary to bring you meaning as you decide who is the lesser of five evils.

CANADA VOTES 2011 GLOSSARY

Advance poll: A place where Canadians who are unable to cast ballots on voting day exercise their right to avoid voting in advance.

Coalition: Traditionally a temporary alliance of political parties used to form a government when no single party can do so. More recently understood to be the worst, most reckless, most despicable action a party can take short of mailing people flesh-eating disease.

Democracy: A form of government designed to give the maximum number of people in society the impression that what they think matters. In Canada, usually accompanied by a question mark. (Google it and see.)

Gerrymander: To divide electoral ridings in a way that favours one party over another; for example, if the Conservative government created a riding that included only affluent suburbs, or if Elizabeth May created a riding that included only her house.

Husting: Any place where a candidate meets voters; originally contained an L.

Independent: A candidate so true to his or her own ideals and personal vision for Canada that he or she has no chance of winning.

Poll: A survey that indicates the voting intentions of people who still have landlines and are so lonely that they're just happy to have someone to talk to, 19 times out of 20.

Pundit: A political commentator who forms opinions by commenting on the opinions of other pundits. The identity of The Original Pundit is a closely guarded secret.

Green party: The Glossary Consortium has ruled that the Green party will not get its own definition until it has a seat in the House of Commons.

Bloc Québécois: A political party that blames the federal government for everything bad and takes credit for everything good, making it the party that most closely resembles the average Canadian.

New Democratic Party: The political party that will hold the balance of power in the House of Commons for the foreseeable future through the power of fourth-place finishes.

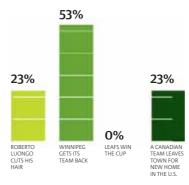
Grits: (slang) Southern corn-based food or the Liberal Party of Canada; traditionally goes with pork.
Conservative party: (Definition redacted).

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

metro

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

What will happen first in the NHL?



Local tweets



► @anna zeeq104: Metallica's website now

lists Quebec City July 16 still no official word from Metallica camp on Halifax for July 14

- @Car_Driven: They're setting up the outdoor patios around Halifax! Aww yeah!
- @lisaonblonde: Just saw a guy talking to his slice of pizza downtown Halifax. Happy 420!
- @meghan036: Why does it always have to be rainy

and or overcast in halifax? I want some nice sunny warm spring weather. Is that too much to ask for?

- @kvbenthem7: Currently sitting next to gerry dee at the halifax airport
- @C100FM: Matt & Deb with a traffic note for you: a mattress on the Bedford Highway near MSVU, inbound to Halifax!!
- @theMwagon: Does anyone on Twitter that lives in Halifax know that tanned Barbie guy that walks around everywhere?

Worth mentioning

TORONTO. Children's entertainer and activist Raffi is urging "Beluga grads" to vote in the federal election.

The beloved singersongwriter, author and founder of the Centre for Child Honouring makes the plea in a new video posted on YouTube.

In the piece, entitled Raffi 4 Canada, the 62year-old tells "Beluga grads" that if they're really passionate about Canada like he is, they will want to yote May 2.

He also outlines his hopes for the future of the country, saying he thinks Canada needs to strengthen its democratic traditions and enhance them.

Raffi closes out the video by singing a new election-themed verse to his hit 1980 children's tune, Baby Beluga.

"Now you've grown and you're on your way, making waves in the boundless bay, with your shining light and your dreams alive, for the young you'll have one day," he croons.

"Grown up Beluga, grown up Beluga, come and rock the vote, please get out and vote, we need to hear you."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cartoon by Michael De Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Get cracking to eggstraordinary tree in Germany

Volker Kraft's apple sapling sported just 18 eggs when he first decorated it for Easter in 1965. Decades later, the sturdy tree is festooned with 9,800 eggs, artfully decorated with everything from sequins to seashells.

Decking trees with hollowed-out, painted eggs for Easter is popular in Germany, but the 75-year-old retiree's annual creation has become



something special in Saalfeld. Last year, it drew more than 13,000 visitors.

Kraft needs two weeks and countless trips up and down his ladder to hang the eggs and the task has become

a little heavier each year since he began the decorations in 1965.

Kraft plans to add another 200 eggs next year — bringing his total to 10,000 — and then stop, if only because he is running out of room to store the mountain of boxes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Spike fires up Perry

● Director Tyler Perry has had enough of fellow African-Americans, especially Spike Lee, attacking him for his films ● Madea is back in Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family



Tyler Perry has something he'd like to get off his chest. "Spike (Lee) can go straight to hell! You can print that," the self-made entertainment mogul says. "I am sick of him talking about me ... I am sick of him talking about black people going to see movies. This is what he said: 'You vote by what you see,' as if black they want to see."

The two filmmakers have hardly been close since Lee started lambasting Perry's work two years ago, saying that Perry's work is "troubling" and "harkens back to Amos and Andy." A war of words began between Perry and Lee, and Perry is ready to put the whole thing behind him. "Spike needs to shut the hell up," he says.

While Perry insists he tries his best to stay posi-

people don't know what tive, the amount of criticism of him out there has reached such a level that he had to respond, culminating with a letter to fans he posted online this week warning of the "folks out there that work overtime trying to keep people from seeing my movies," including his latest, Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family, out this weekend. "I don't even understand it (but) this is where the whole Spike Lee (comment) comes from — the negativity,

'This is Stepin Fetchit, this is coon-ery, this is buffoonery," he says. "And they try to get people to get on this bandwagon with them, to get this mob mentality to come against what I'm do-

ing.
"I'm tired of just laying down, tired of just being nice and letting them say whatever they want to say however they want to say it without people knowing what the intent really is, Perry says.

What surprises Perry

most is how much of the criticism comes from within the black community.

"I've never seen Jewish people attack Seinfeld and say, 'This is a stereotype.' I've never seen Italian people attack The Sopranos," he says. "It's always black people, and this is something that I cannot undo And I'm sick of it from us. We don't have to worry about anybody else trying to destroy us and take shots because we do it to our-







The Reel Guys discuss and review Water for Elephants, which stars Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson and opens on Friday. To read the complete story go to metronews.ca/ scene.





Movie reviews

See it twice ����� | See it now ���� | Worth watching ��� | Yawn �� | Don't bother �

African Cats a mix of fun and learning

African Cats
Genre: Documentary
Directors: Keith Scholey,
Alastair Fothergill
Stars: Samuel L. Jackson
Highlighted by the
dramatic narration of

Samuel L. Jackson, African

Cats may be entertainment-focused, but it's still an informative documentary that looks at a pair of feline families struggling in the African Savanna. While danger lurks at every turn (from cubsnatching hyenas to riverroaming crocodile), filmmakers Keith Scholey and Alastair Fothergill accompany easy-to-digest storytelling with gorgeous images of wildlife in rare and stunning moments of natural suspense.

STEVE GOW







THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APR. 22 TO THURS., APR. 28. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake 902-876-4800

African Cats (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7-9:30

Arthur (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:25-6:50-9:25

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

(G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:40

Hanna (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-

Thu 1:05-3:40-6:25-9 **Hop** (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:40-1:35-3:20-4:25-6:30-7:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:40-1:35-3:20-4:25-6:30-

Insidious (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:30-10

Limitless (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

Fri-Thu 10:05

The Lincoln Lawyer (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-7:15-9:55

Memphis Heat: The True Story of Memphis Wrasslin' (STC) Dolby Stereo, Sta dium Seating, No Passes Thu 7

Rio (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-

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Scream 4 (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

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3:55-6:55-9:50 **Win Win** (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:30-3:15-

Your Highness (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:10

IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake 902-876-4800

Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:30-4:30-

Sucker Punch: The IMAX Experience (14) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:30

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Jane Evre (PG) Fri-Tue 4-6:45-9:20 Wed-Thu

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Arthur (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:40-11:50 Stadium Seating Sat 7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating Tue 3:55-7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4:20-7:10-9:40

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Water for Elephants (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:25 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:50-9:25

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Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 2-4:40-7:25-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital. Stadium Seating Tue-Wed 2-4:40-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2-4:40-10 Water for Elephants (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:50

TRURO

TRURO

20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook 902-895-8020

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Water for Elephants (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3-6:35-9:20 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:35-9:20

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER

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Arthur (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:45-6:15-8:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 2:45-5:45-8:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 5:45-8:15 Hobo With a Shotgun (R) Dolby Stered Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:25-7:15-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 3:25-6:30-8:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating

Tue-Thu 6:30-8:35 **Hop** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:15-6:45-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 3:15-6:10-8:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:10-8:25 **Rio** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:45-7:05-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 3:45-6:25-8:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:25-8:40

Scream 4 (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:35-6:55-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 3:35-6:20-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:20-8:50 Soul Surfer (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:05-6:25-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digi-tal, Stadium Seating Mon 3:05-5:50-8:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 5:50-8:20 Water for Elephants (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:55-6:35-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 2:55-6-8:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6-



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Don't just stand there bust a move

▶ Breakdancing enjoying quite the scene in Halifax ◆ Youth of all ages taking part for fun — and exercise

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNA CONTER METRO HALIFAX



It somehow came up at a junior high party that I could do 'the worm.' One

dislocated shoulder later we found out that that was a lie and peer pressure is dangerous.

Around the same time my father was lecturing me about the laws of physics, breakdancing in Halifax was cutting its teeth, according to Drew Moore, creator of Concrete Roots Productions.

"It started in 1998 with LockDown Crew," Moore told me over drinks recently. "There were maybe 40 active breakdancers in all of Atlantic Canada by 2008."

As the brains behind the dance business, Moore enjoyed a nice pat on the back when his baby nabbed this year's Best New Business Award from Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

"It's not something you would think of when you think best new business so it did a lot to legitimize breakdancing in our region," he told me. "It shows how community-minded they are."

Moore has taken his crew off the stage and into public schools, offering after school programs for youth around the city, keeping the kiddies out of trouble while grooming new talent for the local dance scene.

"Head down to the waterfront over the summer and you're going to see one of our kids busking," he said.

There's no question that breakdancing is peaking in popularity. Shows like America's Best Dance Crew and So You Think You Can Dance, Moore believes, have increased the general public's dance vocabulary. Sometimes kids are picking it up faster than he can keep up.

"There are some styles that the kids need to teach me," Moore confessed. "Forty years ago, breakdancing was being developed by kids and now there's popping, locking, house, jerking, and 'the dougie."

Wolf Blitzer taught me how to 'dougie' on YouTube.







FEATURED INSIDE:

Earth Hour began this year where it always begins - on the east coast of Australia. For the next 24 hours it moved steadily through time zones around the world as millions of people switched off their lights, appliances and television sets for one symbolic hour. Around the world familiar landmarks faded to dark — Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, the Brandenburg Gate, the Parthenon, Forbidden City and Mount Rushmore. In the Philippines a few television stations even halted their broadcasts. Organizers are still tallying the numbers, but Earth Hour 2010 was already counted as the biggest on record, with more than a billion people taking part.

Jed Goldberg admits that events like Earth Hour don't really benefit the environment in any appreciable way, but he says they are powerful symbols nevertheless. Goldberg is the president of Earth Day Canada, an organization that coordinates Earth Day events, promotes year-round programs and educates Canadians on environmental issues. "The fact that so many millions of people around the world take part in these events shows that there is an environmental consciousness out there that didn't exist 20 years ago," he says. "It's very encouraging."

In fact you have to go back 40 years to truly gauge the progress of the environmental movement. The first Earth Day took place in the United States in 1970, in the era of the Kent State Massacre and campus sit-ins. Environmentalists like Rachael Carson, Jacques Cousteau and Jane Goodall were starting to become household names, while an iconic photograph of a fragile planet Earth on a background of black noth-

ingness — an image taken by Apollo astronauts on the way to the moon — captured humanity's imagination.
"Earth Day was supposed to be a one-day wonder," says Goldberg. "Another excuse for a college sit-in. But it touched a nerve, and 20 million Americans took part."

That's a small number, in retrospect. Last year 90 million Americans switched off their lights for Earth Hour, and many more millions took part in Earth Day and Earth Month activities around the world. But is the movement really having an appreciable affect on the environment? Goldberg says yes. "Today environmental awareness is part of our culture here in Canada," he says. "It's part of our daily routine. Twenty years ago a lot of people didn't even know what composting was. Nowadays a lot of urban Canadians

have composters in their back yards. Recycling programs are ubiquitous and there's a real awareness of things like organic food and energy saving."

In fact, studies show in just the first four years of the last decade, composting increased the amount of organic waste diverted from Canadian landfills by 70 percent. Recycling has also increased by nearly 10 percent since 2006, decreasing the amount of waste coming from Canadian households by about 4 percent. But carbon emissions in Canada are increasing faster than the population, and recent events like the nuclear reactor crisis in Japan and last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico point to the fact that much more needs to be done. "We've just scratched the surface," says Goldberg. "Shifting our environmental sensibilities is just the first step, but it's an important step."



UNIQUE DESTINATIONS OFFER LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCES

Danny Gilfoy and Michael Waugh were just trying to escape a bleak Nova Scotia winter when they headed for Costa Rica this past February. They ended up escaping the confines of human civilization for two incredible weeks. Costa Rica was a magical place full of natural wonders that the two Halifax natives had never seen before. They hired guides to take them through mangrove swamps teaming with crocodiles, vis-

A Gap Adventures tour group celebrates their arrival at the top of the world in Tibet.

ited beaches where leatherback turtle conservation projects were underway and a rehabilitation centre that returned injured howler monkeys to the wild. They tried their hand at white water rafting and canyoning and rode long zip lines through rainforest canopies. In the quiet evenings they thrilled to the sloths and coatimundis that crept curiously close their rented cabin.

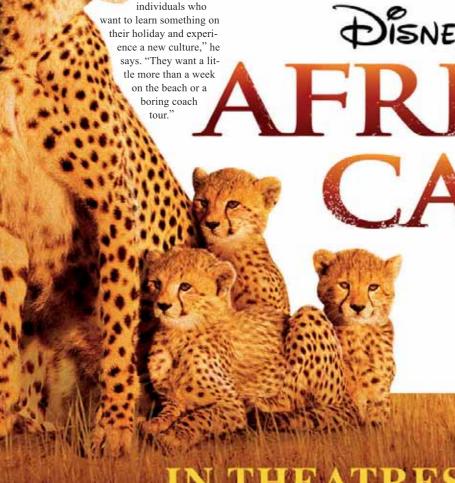
When nothing else was planned, Gilfoy and Waugh hiked the trails that honeycombed through the rain forests and cloud forests near their accommodations - well marked and maintained to keep hikers from trampling the delicate ecosystem and a safe distance away from venomous snakes and insects. "If you have a good guide with you, they will spot things that you wouldn't notice," says Gilfoy. "They'll explain a lot about the ecology of the place that you would otherwise miss.'

1990 as an alternative for traditional forms of travel like cruise ships, resorts and coach tours. Today his company offers more than 1,300 trips to over 100 countries — many to exotic destinations like the Galapagos Islands, Antarctica or Tibet — places with wildlife or spiritual highlights that often create life-changing experiences for his clients. "I believed travel, more specifically innovative travel experiences, was a powerful force that could facilitate change, and ultimately change people's lives."

Poon Tip started Gap Adventures in

Gilfoy says the Costa Rica experience was definitely a life-changer, and he recommends that anyone who wants to get the most out of an ecotourism adventure should hire a reputable travel company to handle the details. "The company that we used picked us up at the airport and drove us back. For two weeks they arranged everything, based on what we told them we wanted to do. We didn't have to worry about a thing."

It is still a vacation, after all.



Gilfoy and Waugh are part of a new

travel mindset, says

Bruce Poon Tip,

founder of the

pany Gap

Toronto-based ad-

venture travel com-

Adventures. They

are eco-tourists.

"Eco-tourists are

IN THEATRES

disney.com/africancats DISNEWITHERENS "ARICH CAS" A DISCATRAGION WIS NICHOUS HOOPER PRODUCTION OF THE PRODU





The Haliburton Forest Tour is one of the most unique hiking experiences in a country

TOMORROW

FF KEITH SCHOLEY AND ALIX TIDMARSH *****EFF KEITH SCHOLEY AND ALASTAIR FOTHERGILL

awash with great hiking trails. The four-hour guided hike starts along the bank of a scenic river near the Ontario town of Haliburton, then ascends 20 meters into the top of the forest canopy via a suspended boardwalk. It's an aspect of the Canadian forest that most Ontarians have never seen, despite the fact that the Halibur-

Like us on **facebook** at Walt Disney Studios Canada

Mount Assiniboine is one of British Columbia's nearly 400 provincial parks.

It's a fact that many Canadian city dwellers seem unaware of. No matter where you live in this country, it's possible to spend the day immersed in the natural world and still be home in time for dinner.

The natural drama is everywhere. In Nova Scotia every September millions of plovers and sandpipers gather along a thin strip of beach in the Bay of Fundy, blanketing the mud flats and gorging themselves on shrimp, preparing for a nonstop migratory flight to South America. At the Saguenay-Saint-Laurent Marine Park where the Saguenay River meets the Saint Lawrence, 13 species of whales can be seen in one place as they feed in the rich waters. At Point Pelee National Park in the southern tip of Ontario, keen observers can spot almost 400 species of birds and a variety of plants that aren't found anywhere else in Canada.

Western city dwellers are even closer to nature. Winnipeg sits at the edge of three major Canadian ecosystems — the tallgrass prairie to the west and south, the Canadian shield to the east and the interlake region to the north. In Calgary and Edmonton, an hour's drive west puts day trip adventurers into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The

same distance east opens up the harsh, beautiful world of the badlands. And British Columbia, with five spectacular national parks and nearly 400 provincial parks, is one of the great ecotourism destinations on the planet.

Taken together it represents a lifetime of exploring for Canadian urbanites. One day trip at a time.

-Tom Mason

CANADIAN ECOTOURISM DESTINATIONS WITHIN EASY REACH

BAY OF FUNDY: Currently on the short list of choices for the "seven wonders of the natural world" the Bay of Fundy between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is a mecca for whale and bird watchers, fossil hunters, kayakers and photographers. ALGONQUIN PARK: The oldest provincial park in Canada is also one of the country's finest. Within easy reach from Ottawa, Algonquin Park is a chance to see big game wildlife in its natural state, and follow in the footsteps of the Group of Seven.

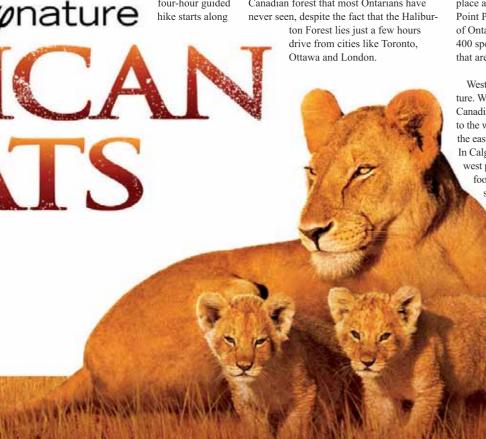
CAP TOURMENTE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE AREA: Just a short drive
north of Quebec City in Quebec's
spectacular Charlevoix region,
Cap Tourmente is a major snow
goose migration stopover and an
internationally recognized tidal
marsh wetland.

MANTARIO TRAIL: Located about 150 kilometers east of Winnipeg, the 63-kilometer-long Mantario Trail in Whiteshell Provincial Park is not for the ill-prepared, but it's a good place to experience the natural wonders along the edge of the Canadian shield.

MALIGNE CANYON: One of the most dramatic hikes in Alberta's Jasper National Park, Maligne Canyon is a deep canyon complete with waterfalls, glacier carved caverns and spectacular gorges.

JOHNSTON CANYON: An easy drive from Calgary, Johnston Canyon in Banff National Park offers hikers a chance to see as many as seven waterfalls, depending on how much energy they want to exert.

SEA KAYAKING IN HOWE
SOUND: With practically a lifetime of natural getaways within easy reach of downtown Vancouver, it's hard to know where to start. A guided sea kayaking tour of Howe Sound is one option — complete with epic mountain scenery, seabirds and possible orca sightings. A number of local outfitters offer rentals, instructions and qualified guides for novice paddlers.





IT'S A CHANGING **WORLD. THOSE WHO THRIVE DIVERSIFY, AND CONSERVE THEIR RESOURCES** WHERE THEY CAN.

You hear this sort of talk a lot in business, but these principles are bigger than profits and losses. They describe the state of our planet, too. Companies like Toshiba of Canada make it their business to see the connection.

For Toshiba, the merging of corporate and social responsibility goes deep; and it's getting deeper still, with the announcement of Toshiba's alliance with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). This three-year partnership will support the two organizations' shared core belief: that conservation of the biodiversity of ecosystems is the key to environmental management.

"We believe NCC is providing a great benefit to Canadians," says Ralph

Hyatt, Toshiba Canada's president and CEO. The private, non-profit group partners with corporate and individual landowners to conserve some of Canada's most precious, and imperiled, natural spaces, and the plant and animal life inhabiting them. They protect the wild, yet their methods are anything but low-tech. That's where Toshiba comes in.

Toshiba is the largest private sector supporter of NCC's Land Information System (LIS). Developed by NCC science staff, the LIS will roll out Canada-wide this year, allowing NCC to report on its achievements in an integrated way, using categories such as Species, Threats, and Stewardship Actions, and ultimately helping it make the strategic decisions necessary to better protect Canadian land and species.

Over the next three years, Toshiba will support LIS with funding and mobile computing technology in the form of laptop computers, adapted for multiple uses, including training, in-office and in-field conservation work, and better time and resources management, and better conservation overall.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Toshiba Canada's support for the new Land Information System includes laptop computers, adapted for multiple uses, both in-field and in-office

On one side: a high-tech company with a social ethic, looking for a worthy cause. On the other: a charity helping to preserve the planet, but sorting through mountains of data. Toshiba of Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) belong together, because each offers the other what it needs.

NCC is an organization dedicated to protecting highly threatened landscapes-those vital to Canada's ecological integrity. It's an efficient organization by any measure, keeping overhead costs at 15 per cent, including administration, fundraising, and communication. However, it also requires the help of more than 200 staff and volunteers to collect, store and analyze the enormous amounts of information needed to plan its activities. To keep things running smoothly, and with Toshiba's support, NCC has developed a Land Information System

"The LIS allows our experts to access critical information instantly, in the field or the office," explains NCC president and CEO, John Lounds. "Through our partnership with Toshiba, we can integrate powerful technology into that conservation work." And the arrangement does more than save time for NCC staffers: it will also improve conservation outcomes and strengthen NCC's bonds with outside partners, like landowners.

"Toshiba's contribution allows us to better share information that impacts our conservation efforts," says Lynn Gran, NCC's vice-president, strategic philanthropy, and CDO. "That's how you create true win-win outcomes. With Toshiba's support, we're building a system that helps us conserve more landscapes, protect more species, and create a natural legacy for generations of Canadians."

With Earth Day on the way, NCC and Toshiba expect conservation to be top-of-mind for many more Canadians. Those ready to help protect habitats and species can learn how at www.natureconservancy.ca/ forcefornature.

stewardship management. Using Toshiba technology and LIS, NCC staff will report, plan, manage and monitor properties more efficiently, resulting in

American Avocet



ENERGY STAR HONOURS TOSHIBA CANADA

Conservation is its own reward, but a little recognition never hurts, either. Toshiba Canada is proud to be named 'Recruit of the Year' at the 2010 Energy Star Market Transformation Awards, acknowledging the company's efforts to market energy efficient products to Canadians.

Today, all of Toshiba's notebooks and LED TVs bear the Energy Star symbol, meaning they reduce energy consumption and costs by 10 to 65 percent over conventional models. Toshiba continues to use the symbol extensively on packaging of qualified products and has developed environmental specification sheets to better educate consumers about them.

The awards are presented annually by the Government of Canada.



Leading innovation leads to a better world.

When it comes to building our award-winning products, we believe less is more. So we minimize waste and use recycled materials wherever we can, while constantly looking for ways to reduce energy consumption. Recycling programs keep discarded technology from fouling the soil and atmosphere, as does our devotion to worldwide environmental initiatives. Plus, we check to see that the people who make the materials that go into our products follow earth-friendly practices just as we do so we can all enjoy the latest technologies amid a cleaner, more sustainable world.

Toshiba.ca/environment





Morrison, not Schuester

With his new album, Matthew Morrison is looking to make a real name for himself — apart from his character on Glee

Matthew Morrison's first single isn't igniting the charts like the songs from Glee, the hit show he plays a teacher on, but the actor-singer says he's not trying to compete with its musical success.

He hasn't made a dent on the Billboard Hot 100, while the cast of the Fox show has appeared on the chart more than 130 times.

"I know going into this that that won't be possible," Morrison said in an interview from Los Angeles last week. "There's going to be a lot of expectations for this album, you know. I'm in such a spotlight right now. I just want to do the best I can and just continue the growth."

Morrison's single, the pop tune Summer Rain,

was released in early March; it currently sits at No. 27 on Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart. Last week he released his duet with Gwyneth Paltrow - a cover of Over the Rainbow and this week he dropped his duet with Elton John, Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters/Rocket Man. Morrison said there will be a "big unveiling" of one more star-studded duet.

His self-titled debut is out May 10. He said the first single isn't a reflection of his entire album.

"The single is fantastic and I love it, but I wouldn't classify that as my sound," he said. "There's a lot of really kind of deeper songs (on the album) and I felt like if I started with one of those, I couldn't go to a more

"I walk down the street and people are like, 'Hey, it's Mr. Schu' or 'It's the guy from Glee,' and no one really knows my name."

poppy place later."

On Glee, Morrison stars as Will Schuester, the school's Spanish teacher and glee club coach. He's earned Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for his role on the series, and also has appeared on Broadway in such shows as Hairspray, Footloose and The Light in the Piazza.

Writing songs gave him a chance to reflect on his life, he said.

"I learned so much

about myself and kind of dealt with some things I guess I had been suppressing for a while," he said. "A lot of the songs I wrote were about my 20s, living in New York City, kind of being away from my family for the first time."

The 32-year-old said the album's most personal song is My Name, a tune about the duality of his Glee character and his real self.

"You're in people's living rooms every single week and they feel like they know that character and they think that's who you are."

Morrison will kick off a solo tour June 18 in Minneapolis and wrap in Los Angeles on July 23. He says the tour will be "kind of moody, sexy."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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TV picks

End is near for Friday Night

FOOTBALL. The final season of Friday Night Lights continues with a new episode, in which Vince discovers the benefits of stardom while Tami tries to start a tutoring program.

Friday Night Lights Friday, Global, NBC

Fringe goes beyond

sci-fi. Fringe fans can rest easy now that the show has been renewed for a fourth season, but the characters on the complex sci-fi stunner still have reason to worry. That's because in tonight's new episode, Walternate finds a way to wreak havoc "over there."

Fringe, Friday, Citytv, Fox

Religious to ridiculous

EASTER. For those celebrating Easter weekend, a pious choice might be the 1956 Biblical epic The Ten Commandments, airing tonight on ABC. For a slightly less reverent religious-themed movie, there's the Jim Carrey-as-God comedy Bruce Almighty on Movietime, followed by the Canuck comedian's 1997 smash Liar Liar.

- The Ten Commandments Saturday, ABC
- Bruce Almighty, Liar, Liar, Saturday, Movietime

All wedding, all the time

ROYALTIES. Obsessed with the royal wedding? So is TLC. Tonight the channel shows three new specials consecutively, with the retrospective Charles & Di kicking things off. After that, India Hicks (Prince Charles' second cousin) looks at what Kate Middleton might expect from her upcoming nuptials in Untold Stories of a Royal Bridesmaid while Royally Astounding looks at 30 important days in the lives of the royal family over the past 30 years.

Charles & Di, Untold Stories of a Royal Bridesmaid, Royally Astounding, Sunday, TLC

Classics return

comedy. Instead of a new instalment of the 22nd season, Fox is airing 2007's blockbuster The Simpsons Movie. For a live-action comedy alternative, A channel is airing the popular '05 Owen Wilson-Vince Vaughn flick, Wedding Crashers. (Sunday)

- The Simpsons Movie, Sunday, Fox
- Wedding Crashers, Sunday, A Channel THE CANADIAN PRESS





Not invited? Knit your own

• Author's unique take on the royal wedding is selling briskly • There's even a knitted corgi

▶ Nico Evers-Swindell and Camilla Ludington star in William and Kate

The bride's dress, it can now be revealed, is made of wool. So are the groom, the guests and the royal corgi.

Amid the acres of souvenirs, memorabilia and merchandise produced to mark the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, one surprise success is Knit Your Own Royal Wedding, a stitch-by-stitch guide to creating the April 29 event out of yarn.

The book has sold 50,000 copies and been through four print runs since it was released last month by a small English publisher, Ivy Press. It is part of a tide of stitching, printing, painting and other handicrafts that are commemorating the royal nuptials - and celebrating a quirkily old-fashioned sense of British

"Knit Your Own" author Fiona Goble spent a month creating patterns for wedding figures including William and Kate, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Prince Harry, the Archbishop of Canterbury and even one of the queen's beloved corgi dogs.

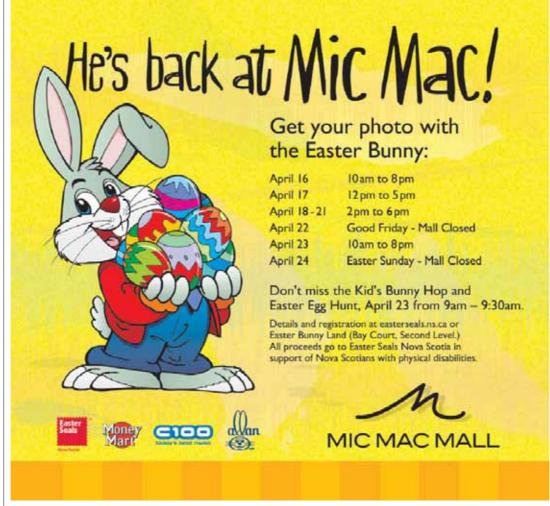
The one that was the easiest was Harry because he has bright red hair — l say that as a fellow redhead with close-set eyes and a square jaw."

Like many other royal wedding crafts, Knit Your Own is irreverent — it's accompanied by a promotional video that shows the woolly royals dancing a conga line — without being mean-spirited.

The book has proved a big hit, even though the time commitment involved in making the figures is daunting.

Kate was quite hard, because she doesn't have many distinguishing features."

FIONA GOBLE, AUTHOR, KNIT YOUR OWN ROYAL WEDDING



Can't knit? Don't despair. Royal wedding fans also can purchase William and Kate colouring books, paper dolls and a William and Kate Dress-up Dolly Book. Cross Stitcher magazine has offered a "funky commemorative sampler of Kate, while individual craftspeople have produced everything from a Keep Calm and Marry On crossstitch, inspired by a famous wartime poster, to Kate and William gloves "Kate" one embroidered with a blue engagement ring. THE CANADIAN PRESS



► A knitted al wedding quirkier ways to

Actress inspired by Kate's fashion sense

For actress Camilla Luddington, there was one distinct drawback to playing style maven Kate Middleton in the new TV movie William and Kate: the role made her feel like a bit of a fashion reject.

"It sort of (made) me come home and feel depressed about my own wardrobe because I realized how stylish she is," Luddington said.

'Our styles are completely different. I'm sure I look like a mess compared to her to be honest ... Urban Outfitters is, like, my favourite store and I can't imagine Kate being seen in there. Ever." Luddington, whose TV credits include CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and The Defenders, stars opposite Nico Evers-Swindell (NCIS: Los Angeles, Law & Order) as Prince William in the made-for-TV movie, airing Sunday at 8 p.m. ET on Slice.

William and Kate has already received a drubbing in the British press, where pundits have assailed the acting and accents and noted that Los Angeles (where the film was shot) is a poor stand-in for Britain.

However, they've also conceded that William and Kate is so over-the-top that it may earn a spot in the "so bad it's good" category. The actors clearly got a kick out of transforming themselves into the royal couple, who will be watched by a global TV audience next week when they tie the knot at Westminster Abbey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Berry dishing on her court custody battles

• Actress admits her and Gabriel Aubry needed serious help to get past it

Halle Berry is opening up about her contentious custody battle with exboyfriend Gabriel Aubry.

"It's been a year full of challenges. When there's a child involved, it's a relief when you can resolve things in a good way," Berry tells Extra.

"Our issues were never about fighting for her. We both know a child needs both her parents.'

But despite both being invested in their daughter's happiness, Berry admits she and Aubry needed serious help.

"Sometimes, as a couple, you reach an impasse. We need a court and a judge to help us work out some of the delicate issues," she says.

METRO

"Sometimes, as a couple, you reach an impasse. We need a court and a judge to help us work out some of the delicate issues"

HALLE BERRY ON DEALING WITH HER CUSTODY BATTLE



Talking points

Glee fans will be screaming

KEEP COOL Scream 4 star Emma Roberts was reportedly spotted getting cosy with Glee heartthrob Chord Overstreet while attending the Coachella music festival recently, according to Us Weekly.

"They were making out," a source says. "They couldn't keep their hands off each other."

And while they enjoyed the festival and its various parties, the desert heat might have been a bit too much for them.



Celebrity tweets



ľm



thinking.

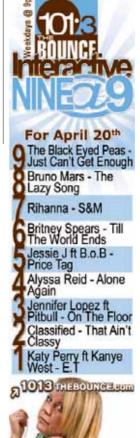
Twitter asks what I'm doing. Foursquare asks where turned into a crazy girlfriend."



ma's birth certificate. He could have made it a task on Celebrity Apprentice and saved money.

"Sat out by the pool for a bit and now my iphone now says it wont work because of temperature?? So, I put in in the fridge."





13thebounce.com





life

Fashion fact



China
The Far East continues to be the promised land for luxury fashion brands. Burberry Prorsum just opened a flagship store in Beijing and will be having a lavish runway show there that will be streamed live on the company's Web site on



inspired pendant

Move boldly into Sprinter

◆ That's a term some fashion people have started using to refer to those cold weather pieces mixed in with all the summery items hitting stores right now. It sounds oxymoronic, but in the fashion world, it's perfectly logical.

KENYA HUNT METRO WORLD NEWS

Fur stoles for spring? Sheer skirts for the dead of winter?

These days, it all makes perfect sense, with fashion designers paying little attention to the season for which they're creating clothing.

Yes, we all still need warm coats when it's cold out and something light and airy to wear in the heat.

But in the past year, some of those old rules like, say, thou shalt only wear sandals in summer, have changed.

From a business perspective, fashion houses are finally taking a look at the timing in which their clothes hit stores and the fact that women don't necessarily want to have to wait three to four months to be able to wear their spring or winter scores.

"The fact of the matter is, the weather is still very cold in most countries by the time the spring collections hit. It's a slightly old-

fashioned mentality to be so controlled by the season," Zowie Broach, one-half of the Londondesign based duo Boudicca says of the phenomenon some editors have taken to calling "sprinter." She created fur-collared wool coats for her spring collection because she knew that "there are women Russia will buy these

But even if the customer is in Las Vegas, she might want to wear that coat over a beautiful chiffon dress on a chilly night."

in March.

Prada's hugely popular spring collection featured outsize brightly colored fur stoles that at first glance seemed like an odd choice Burberry Prorsum showed quilted leather jackets that could work just as well in January as April.

"Right now, it's less about 'spring'

"Right now, it's less about 'spring' or 'summer' and more that it's a 'new season.' When it's cold out, you want a new, great coat. It's as simple as that," Broach says.

"Women want to buy and wear things immediately. The hunter/gatherer isn't storing anymore," she adds.

Global ecommerce sites like Net-a-Porter further stoke the winds of change.

"As an international business, seasonless dressing is very relevant to us," says Holli Rogers, buying director at Net-a-Porter.

Anna dello Russo
wearing a wintry look from
the Prada spring collection
right after it hit stores,
in winter.

"There is nothing more

"There is nothing more frustrating than not being able to find something when you need it most. Many of the brands we stock now offer multiple collections that include pre, cruise and high summer.

"With this increased frequency of new arrivals throughout the year, we can offer more choice to our customer wherever she may be, from New York to Australia to Moscow," she adds



et from Burberry

orsum's spring/summer col-

for the season, but

ended up being one of

the most coveted pieces

of the year with shop-

pers snapping them up as

soon as they hit stores in

late February. Meanwhile,

Pick your look!

Curls under control

Peter Ciardulli, Curly Hair Expert & Owner of Calia Hair Design, CaliaHair.com "Curly hair is to straight hair what cashmere is to silk"

Step 1 Cleanse the hair with an anti-frizz shampoo. Next use a moisture-rich conditioner which will help smoothen the cuticle, detangle and improve manageability. Curly hair should be cleansed 1-2 times a week and be conditioned every time you wet down or wash the hair as needed.

Step 2 Comb through hair with fingers or very large tooth comb. This reduces any tangles that may occur during the styling process.

Step 3 Apply a generous amount of curl-focused styling product. Calia Texture Curl Cream is a fast drying hair cream that calms down unruly or frizzy hair with soft and pliable results. Apply in 2-3 applications so you get more of an even distribution of product throughout hair then repeat Step 2.

Step 4 For extra lift on the root pinch the hair and clip it with a roller clip. This will give extra





support on the top of the head and root area. Never manipulate the hair while in the drying stage, either air or blow dry by diffusing. This means no scrunching, shaking or rubbing the hair while it is in the drying stages. By doing this you're not allowing the curl to form and

Step 5 Once the hair is dry then you can finger through the hair and scrunch it to loosen the curl. At this point your hair is set and will not frizz! You can add a finishing crème like Calia Fibre Optics - a cream based pomade. This will define and separate the curls for more definition

Give it to me straight

Jenny Randhawa and Karen Manhas, Blo Blow Dry Bar's Vancouver Franchise Partners, blomedry.com "Straight hair is to curly hair what Beyonce is to Sasha Fierce"

Step 1 Apply a dime-sized amount of Moroccan Oil through towel-dried hair and a root lifter around the crown root area.

Step 2 Finger dry hair upside down pulling on roots where you want lift.

Step 3 Place hair in three sections and blow dry with a large round brush for maximum smoothness away from your face to create lift. Remember: start from the back and work your way to the front and create tension with your round brush to maximize volume. Also, the key to a smooth mane is to make sure your hair is blown out completely dry and end with a blast of cold

step 4 Part dry hair into three sections and run ceramic flatiron through mid-shaft to ends. This retains volume. Add shine

Dried & True

THE KIT

You see women walking out of the salon and think, I have to learn to do that myself. Well, it's easier than you think with a little practice—and the right taming products. Give yourself a perfect blow dry by applying Redken Velvet Gelatine 07 Cushioning Blow-Dry Gel to damp hair to add body and bounce. \$19, redken.ca.

Add volume by backcombing at the crown to give the illusion of fuller, thicker hair.

To get that perfect, effortless, shake-your-hairand-go look, part damp hair down the middle and apply a leave-in conditioner. Then, you can let hair dry naturally. Milk_Shake Leave In Conditioner, \$22, 800-736-0388.

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Vancouver

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The Royal decor frenzy

• Karl Lohnes offers tips for helping you decorate to celebrate Prince William and Kate's big day

DESIGN CENTRE



METRONEWS.CA

It's only one week away from the Royal wed-

ding and the world has all eyes focused on Britain.

It's only natural that home decorating fanatics cash in and do a lit-

tle royal decorating celebrate this historical soiree.

Forget about the stodgy goldrimmed teapots and dollar bin tea towels, here's a list of fabulous British-inspired decorat-

ing accessories that are sure to turn your house

into a royal celebration of its own. Its always nice

to have a reminder of the Royal wedding. I'm not quite sure what hap-pened to the porcelain platter of Charles and Diana I purchased at their wedding.

Most likely ended up in a yard sale many moons ago.

This time around I might buy something trendy that I'll be proud enough to dis-

play. The Big Ben Clock from Urban Barn (\$80) is 4-feet tall and would look fabulous hung on the small wall in the foyer.

Never to be late and always in style!

I'm thinking a large printed wallpaper would look great hung inside my walk-in closet for impact.

The illusion of having many crowns just might start a few royal rumours amongst those who visit.

In terms of entertaining, I'm thinking of waking up early and having a royal brunch at the house. Serving things like Cream of Earl Grey Tea from David's Tea in my new Keep Calm from Řeepcal mugs mandcarryon.ca and serving up a custom English Garden Wedding ice cream cake from Baskin Robbins will add a punch of British whimsy to the occasion.

Am I that crazy about the Royals? I am considering painting my small den a vibrant purple and Royal Throne P5149-63 from Para Paints is on the top of my list! Teamed with

dark brown some wood furniture, a charcoal grey upholstered sofa and a funky Union Jack wall plaque from Urban Outfitters, and I'll achieve a room handsome enough to attract any Prince.

CARRY













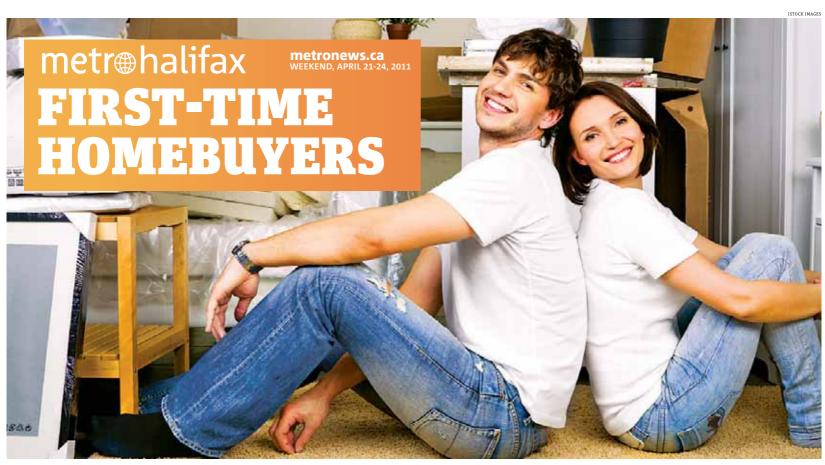
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Hidden costs of home buying

Defore you buy your first home, consider these 10 forgotten costs to include in your budget



When Marcelle, 29, and Janeen, 31, bought their first home — a new condo near funky Whyte Avenue in Edmonton — they were determined not to join the house-poor crowd. So they saved up a 25 per cent downpayment, said no to upgrades and bought used furnishings.

But six months later they were in trouble. They hadn't anticipated a host of expenses that tipped their purchase from affordable to "it hurts!" Consider these 10 frequently forgotten costs when you do your budget.

Interest adjustments

This covers any gap between closing date and first mortgage payment. Avoid it by lining up the closing date and first payment to be exactly a month apart.

Mortgage insurance

This is typically required by lenders if your downpayment is 20 per cent or less (to a minimum of five per cent).

Home inspection

The average is around \$100 an hour, though some home inspectors charge by house size.

Survey (certificate of location) If there isn't a current one

available, plan on spending from \$750 to \$1,500.

Legal costs

These vary but average \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Property appraisal

This may be required by your lender, though some include it as part of the mortgage package. Otherwise plan on \$150 to \$300.

Home insurance

This is an often-overlooked item when calculating monthly payments. Get at least two estimates.

Vendor reimbursements

This is necessary for items like taxes and fuel, which the vendor paid in advance.

Land transfer tax

Loathed by home buyers, this tax may be levied in your area. Ask about reductions for first-time buyers.

Condo costs

These can include a parking spot, in-advance monthly condo fees, PST\HST on appliances, occupancy fees, tax on upgrades and warranty enrolment fees.

A little prep in advance of purchase ensures you won't be hit by sticker shock at closing.

Variable or fixed

- A variable rate will change with interest rates while a fixed rate is, well, fixed for a specified term.
- Economist Moishe

Milevsky's research indicates that a variable rate saves money 90 per cent of the time, as much as 50 per cent of the interest paid over the life of the mortgage.

But if certainty means you'll sleep at night, fixed may be more suitable, even though you'll pay for the security.









Fall in love, carefully

• If you follow your head as well as your heart, your dream home will also be your best investment



First-time homebuyers should behave like investors because that's how they'll save money, says Don Campbell, a Vancouver real estate expert.

"If you prefer not to save money, then think like a homebuyer," says Campbell, an investor who analyzes and writes about the Canadian real estate industry.



And while it's tough to approach your first home with your brain instead of your heart, Campbell recommends looking for certain criteria that will encourage you to make a wise decision.

"You fall in love with a house in a neighbourhood that has a future and not a past," he says. "Buy in an area where the property values will go up."

Buying close to a train or station is a good idea because those properties are predicted to rise in value 15 per cent more than similar properties that aren't near a station, he says.

It's also smart to work your mortgage like an investor, says Campbell. So on a \$300,000 variable-rate mortgage, choose to pay back the higher monthly payment of a five-year

locked-in mortgage.

Yes, the payment is more than you're required to pay, but 100 per cent of the extra payment goes off the principal. After five years, you'll have paid the same total as a locked-in mortgage, but with this method a lot more comes off your principal and you've paid a lot less in interest payments.

Determining a few key factors before hitting the bricks is a good idea for first-time homebuyers, says Rob Faulkner, president of the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors.

Faulkner says it is vital buyers determine what they can afford, choose a few locations that work for their lifestyle, and buy a home based on lifestyle and the ability to maintain it.



New or resale, choose what's right for you

There are advantages to both, depending on lifestyle



Shopping for your first house can be fun — especially seeing what's new in home decor — but with all the choices, making a decision can be a challenge. A good place to start is with new or resale.

"Whether it's your first time buying or your 10th, deciding depends on personal preference and location," says Elton Ash, regional executive vice president of ReMax Canada West in Kelowna, B.C.

It's hard to deny the appeal of a new home with the latest in kitchens, baths, fixtures, he says, and there's a warranty that backs the building, foundation, finishes, etc.

A resale home's biggest appeal is its history — being in an established area, solidly appreciating value,

schools, green space, plus a sense of neighbourhood.

But location is a multifaceted issue, Ash adds. New homes are usually found in subdivisions, so there's commuting if you work downtown. That adds to time and money, so it must be weighed with the house price. Ash has noticed an increased desire for suburbs with good rapid transit. The new suburban home also offers lots of home — both in size and lifestyle extras — for the money.

OLD OR NEW

Don't forget closing costs

It's important to ask abou the various costs of a new or resale home. Resale homes have set closing dates and costs: the house is already built, and closing costs are roughly 1.5 per cent of the purchase price. New homes can be different, says Rodney Litigio, a Toronto mortgage consultant with buyingblock.com: What

you see in the sales brochure may not be what you get, so "when you sign a new purchase agreement, always try to make the sales brochure part of the agreement."

The same goes for closing costs. New homes are subject to additional municipal levies, so closing can cost up to 4 per cent of the purchase price. Litigio says you can negotiate to cap how much you'll pay of those closing levies, with the developer picking up the rest.

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weekend, April 21-24, 2011

Get down with down payments

Otherwise your pay an insurance premium on your mortgage ○ RRSPs can help you fund a home purchase



What exactly is a down payment on a new home?

"Any lender wants you to have some of your money going into a home purchase alongside the lender's money. That's basically the function of a down payment," says Geoff Parkin, president of the Vancouver-based Mortgage Brokers Association of B.C.

As with most payment programs, the more you put down, the less you owe later. Federal law states that when you borrow more than 80 per cent of the value of a home, you have to be insured against default by one of Canada's three mortgage insurance companies.

"So we add an insurance premium to the home buyer's mortgage. So for that \$400,000 home where you're putting \$20,000 down, you might have another \$8,000 added onto your mortgage as an insurance premium."

The premiums are calculated by how much your down payment involves starting at 80 to 85 per cent (of the total cost), then 85 to 90 per cent and

then 90 to 95 per cent. "As you get higher, you've put less down on your down payment, the premiums go up," says Parkin.

So how to calculate what you need to put down on that \$500,000 three-bedroom home you're in love with?

"Take the cost and multiply it by five per cent, and that tells you what your minimum down payment is," says Donna Mullen, a broker/owner with Your Mortgage Store in Wasaga Beach, Ont.

In this case, you would put down \$25,000. But as Mullen reminds us, that five per cent is only the minimum — even though there are programs available offering cash-back incentives to pay off personal debt.

That allows you to free up more money for the down payment and lets you virtually go through 100 per cent financing for your first home, keeping in mind you'll pay the price in higher insurance premiums for at least the first five years.

"But five per cent is where you have to start from. If you have more to put down, that's awesome because the more you put Start crunching numbers before you shop for your first home so you know what you can actually afford.

down, your mortgage insurance premium goes down and you save money."

To keep that down payment in mind, Parkin suggests crunching numbers before you start house hunting. "Always get preapproved for a mortgage before you go shopping — go through the math to see what you can afford, especially if the market is active," he says.

Sources

While it's best to minimize your debt load by using your own savings for a down payment, other options include a financial gift from a family member, combining your cash with money from an existing line of credit or tapping into your RRSPs.

The Homebuyer Mortgage Program lets you take up to \$20,000 out of RRSPs without paying tax on it, if it's for the purchase of your first home. "It's for first-time homebuyers only," says Parkin. "That can then be repaid over 15 years in equal instalments and there are no tax consequences."

That's on top of your amortization, or the number of years it takes you to pay off your mortgage — changes to the federal law in March dropped the length of amortization from 35 years to 30 years.



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The Nova Scotia Home Builders' Association is offering complimentary consumer information seminars throughout April that will help answer your renovation questions.

Highlights include:

hiring a contractor; planning your new home, energy efficiency and heating options; warranties and protection; technology options; design trends; and financing.

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Seminar Schedule Dates and Locations:

April 27: Best Western Hotel, Bridgewater

April 28: Ramada Plaza Hotel, Dartmouth

Weighing in on upgrades

♦ When buying a new home, should you go with the standard package or invest in upgrades? ♦ Should you buy from the builder or do it yourself?

• Here are some tips to help you decorate or renovate your new home





Home renovation is a \$50billion industry in Canada, and most builders will offer a variety of upgrade options ranging from appliances and bathroom fixtures to floor coverings, countertops, doors and decks.

The trick is to know how much to spend. "The top two renovation expenditures are the same no matter where you go — that's kitchens and baths," says Peter Simpson, president of the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association.

As far as upgrades are concerned, the sky is the limit. "We're finding that over the past few years the number of products available has increased significantly so the choices are enormous. If you want a handmade nickel clawfoot tub and you've got an extra \$60,000 kicking around, you can have that," says Simpson.

Ben Young, COO of Ramar Homes in Halifax, says the tendency used to be larger homes, but potential buyers are now looking more for interior features, or the "fit and finish" as he calls it. "They're paying attention to things like their

kitchens. Granite countertops are becoming much more popular."

From an investment perspective, any improvements you make will add to the resale value of the home, but only up to a point. A good rule of thumb is to keep a five per cent cap on your upgrades if you want that money back from your investment.

The options offered by builders may vary and some offer limited choices because they're at a certain price point. You may prefer to add your own improvements after the fact. Maybe you'd like to upgrade the kitchen floor to a nicer tile, for example.

But Simpson warns that any work that you or another contractor performs after you've moved in is not covered by the warranty on the house.

"My advice to consumers who are doing this, unless they're very handy, I would leave it to the professionals."

The advantage of buying from the builder, says Simpson, is that "all the new products and services and leading-edge technology and building code advances are included in the new home. That's what some people consider to be the ultimate renovation."



metr@food metronews.ca WEEKEND, APRIL 21-24, 2011

Effortless & elegant Easter dinner

This Four-Hour Leg of Lamb is an example of the wonders you can work when you're not even in the kitchen

DINNER **EXPRESS**

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Easter dinner isn't meant be rushed affair. And neither should

meat you serve at it.

Which doesn't mean you have to work particularly hard at it.

This flavourful, slowly roasted leg of lamb from Sarah Raven's cookbook, Fresh From the Garden, is a great example of the wonders you can work when you're not even in the kitchen.

Start by combining the marinade. Then add the meat, refrigerate and walk away for the next 24, even 48 hours.

When you're ready to cook, dump everything in a roasting pan, walk away for 4 1/2 hours and you are good to go.

The only real effort involves making the gravy to serve with the lamb.

And even that is just a matter of tossing the roasting pan on the stove and simmering for a bit.

Preparation:

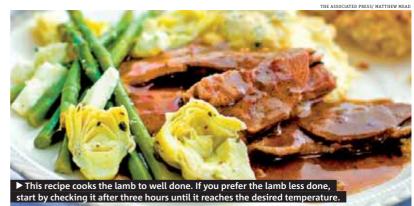
- In very large resealable plastic bag, combine wine, garlic, cumin, coriander, olive oil, salt and pepper. Mix well. Add the leg of lamb, close the bag and toss well to cover. Stand the bag upright (or double bag) in a large bowl and refrigerate for 24 to 48 hours, turning the bag every few hours to coat the meat.
- In large roasting pan, arrange carrots, onions, leeks and garlic in an even layer. Place the leg of lamb over the vegetables, then pour the marinade in the bag over everything. Roast in 300 F (140 C) for 4 1/2 hours. Remove the pan from the oven and transfer lamb to a serving platter. Cover the lamb with foil, then a layer of

kitchen towels. Let rest for 30 minutes.

- Gravy: Meanwhile, heat stock in saucepan over low. Use a slotted spoon to discard vegetables from the roasting pan. Let the liquid in the pan rest for several minutes, then spoon off any visible fat. Set the roasting pan over 1 or 2 burners and heat over medium, scraping the bottom with a wooden spoon to loosen any stuck bits. Sprinkle in the flour and cook, stirring constantly, for another 1 to 2 min-
- Slowly pour the hot stock into the roasting pan, stirring until it becomes a smooth gravy. Stir in the port and jelly, then simmer for 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper Slice the lamb and serve with the gravy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ FRESH FROM THE GARDEN BY SARAH RAVEN (UNIVERSE,

- stock
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) port or red wine
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) red currant
- Salt and black pepper



39



Ingredients:

- 1 bottle (750 mL) dry white wine
- 5 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) each cumin and coriander seeds, toasted and coarsely ground
- 5 tbsp (75 mL) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) each salt and ground black pepper
- 1 leg of lamb (about 5- to
- 5 1/2-lb/2.2 to 2.45 kg)
- 3 carrots, chopped
- · 2 onions, chopped • 3 leeks, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic

Gravv:

- 2 cups (500 mL) meat

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Add colour to your Easter table

Here is an easy Artichoke and Asparagus Salad to add colour to your table. It not only celebrates Easter but also the spring season.

Preparation:

Bring large pot of water to boil. Set a large

BURNSIDE

bowl of ice water next to the stove.

Blanch asparagus in boiling water for 4 minutes or until bright green and just tender. Transfer to the ice water to cool and stop the cooking. Drain well.

WITH EACH

DAILY STAY

In large bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar, thyme, Dijon mustard, lemon rind and juice, salt and pepper. Gently toss the drained asparagus spears and the artichoke hearts in the dressing. Serve sprinkled with the feta cheese.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EMILY RICHARDS

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECON-OMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

Ingredients:

- 2 bunches fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) white balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 mL) chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp (5 mL) grated lemon rind
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and ground black pepper
- 2 cans (14 oz/425 mL each) artichoke hearts, drained
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) crumbled feta cheese



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Sip a pinot, save the planet? That's the thinking behind wineries teaming up with environmental organizations to raise funds for trees, seas and land.

One of the latest is Clean Coast wines, the brainchild of California winemaker Susie Selby.

The owner of Selby Winery created the wines, available online, and in Mississippi and Louisiana, with the goal of raising awareness of the Gulf Coast recovery effort.

"I spend a lot of time in Louisiana. It's just a place that's near and dear to my heart," Selby said. After the 2010 oil spill she decided she wanted to do something to help the area on a long-term basis, so she came up with Clean Coast wines.

The four wines — pinot noir, chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and merlot — carry labels decorated with marine creatures. From every bottle sold online (cleancoastwines.com) \$4 is donated to the Greater New Orleans Community Foundation.

"It's an honour to

give back through wine," she said, "because people still enjoy the food and wine experience, but are also able to make a little bit of a difference."

Another wine-to-water connection is being made by Flying Fish, which makes wines from grapes grown in Washington state's Columbia Valley.

"We thought we'd like to really honour the waters that are home to the fish that are featured on the label," said Karmen Olson-Stevens, brand marketing manager.

Since launching in 2004, the winery has donated a portion of pro-

ceeds to Ocean Conservancy, for a current total of nearly \$70,000. The money is earmarked for the organization's annual international coastal cleanup and last year went to the Gulf cleanup efforts.

Other wineries also are branching out.

Root 1, produced in Chile, is a long-standing partner of Global ReLeaf, a branch of American Forests. By the end of 2011, winery officials estimate Root 1 and Global ReLeaf will have planted more than 40,000 trees in forest restoration projects around the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pens 2-0T win has Lightning on brink





PENGUINS

James Neal scored 3:38 into the second overtime to give the Pittsburgh Penguins a 3-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 4 of their first-round playoff series Wednesday night.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 29 shots — 12 of them in the extra periods — to help the Penguins take a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference matchup. Game 5 is Saturday in Pittsburgh, with the Lightning needing a victory to stay alive.

Neal gathered a loose puck along the boards and sent the winning shot past goalie Dwayne Roloson, who had 50 saves for Tampa Bay.

Martin St. Louis scored late in the second period and Sean Bergenheim added his first career playoff goal with less than four minutes remaining in regulation as Tampa Bay rallied from a 2-0 deficit for the second straight game against Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury.

But unlike Game 3, when Pittsburgh's Tyler Kennedy countered with the winning goal just 31 seconds after the Lightning tied it, Tampa Bay took this one into overtime.

The Lightning failed to take advantage of a powerplay opportunity in the first OT, and got off only one shot in the second extra period before Neal ended it with his first goal of the playoffs.

Kennedy and Arron Asham scored, building Pittsburgh's 2-0 lead in the first 23 minutes of the game. It looked as if the Penguins might be able to hold on when they killed Tampa Bay's last two power-play opportunities of regulation to cling to a 2-1 lead. But Bergenheim's shot trickled through with 3:17 left in the third to even it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miller wills Sabres to win

Decomes first Buffalo goaltender since Dominik Hasek to register two shutouts in one series Flyers lose centre Carter with possible knee injury



Ryan Miller made 32 saves for his second shutout of the playoffs and the Buffalo Sabres beat the Philadelphia Flyers 1-0 on Wednesday night to even the first-round playoff series 2-2

Jason Pominville scored at 9:38 of the first period to help the Sabres rebound from two straight

It was Miller's third career playoff shutout and second of the series after he stopped 35 shots in Buf-

SABRES

falo's 1-0 victory in Game

Miller's best stops came in the final nine minutes. First, there was his glove save in stopping Danny Briere, who was set up alone in front. A few minutes later, Miller reached back with his stick to prevent Mike Richards from slipping a shot into an open left side.

The series shifts to Philadelphia for Game 5 on Friday night.

Flyers goalie Brian Boucher was sharp, too, in stopping 28 shots.

Boucher has allowed only four goals on 87 shots since replacing rookie Sergei Bobrovsky in the first period of Philadelphia's 5-4 victory in Game 2 on Saturday.

The only goal Boucher allowed Wednesday was through no fault of his own as Pominville completed a nifty tic-tac-toe passing play in front of the

Tyler Ennis started it from the end boards with a blind backhand pass to Rob Niedermayer to create a 2-on-1. Niedermayer fed a pass through the crease to Pominville, who redirected it in the open right side. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

sports

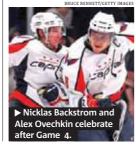
Quoted



"I was really lucky in the end ... I hope I have the chance to recover properly and play better (Thursday). I'm just happy I came through."

TENNIS PLAYER MILOS RAONIC, OF THORNHILL, ONT., WHO LED 6-2 IN THE FINAL SET TIEBREAKER WEDNESDAY, BUT HAD TO HOLD OFF A RALLY FROM GERMAN SIMON GREUL TO ADVANCE TO THURSDAY'S THIRD ROUND AT THE BARCELONA OPEN.

Capitals rally stuns Rangers



Jason Chimera scored 12:36 into the second overtime, and the Washington Capitals completed a three-goal comeback to beat the Rangers 4-3 and push New York to the brink of elimination Wednesday night.

New York scored three times in the second period to make it 3-0 and looked ready to head back to Wash**CAPITALS** RANGERS

ington even in the series for Game 5. Now the Capitals can advance to the second

round with a win.

Alexander Semin started Washington's rally, and Marcus Johansson scored twice in the third to make it 3-3. The Rangers built their lead on goals by Artem Anisimov, Marian Gaborik and Brandon Dubinsky. Henrik Lundqvist made 49 saves in the loss.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Maineiacs hope for another upset

Zafiris says Maineiacs are peaking at the right time after quarter-final triumph Record-setting Sea Dogs pose tough challenge



The underdog role appears to suit Alex Zafiris and the Lewiston Maineiacs just fine.

Faced with a daunting QMJHL semifinal matchup with the nationally topranked Saint John Sea Dogs, the eighth-place Maineiacs are hoping to pull off another big upset after zipping past the second-place Montreal Juniors in the quarterfinals last week.

"We went in as underdogs and we embraced that role," said Zafiris, a checking-line forward from Halifax. "We just worked hard."

Similar to the last round, few are picking Lewiston to beat Saint John. A quick glance at the stats shows why: the Sea Dogs tied the QMJHL single-season record for wins with 58; finished 35 points ahead of the Maineiacs; and have gone 8-1 in the post-season.

It looks like a mismatch, but Zafiris says the Maineiacs are a better team than their record showed.

"We were an eighthplace team, but I don't think we played as an eighth-place team," he said. "People know our team is talented, and we definitely need to be looked out for."

In 11 games, Zafiris has two goals, both scored in the first round, and is called upon to provide energy.

"I'm not really looked at to score goals ... I'm a defensive forward, an energy guy," he said. "I try to hit and get the puck deep."

The Maineiacs visit the Sea Dogs at Harbour Station for Games 1 and 2 on Friday and Saturday.

The two teams split the regular-season series, and the Maineiacs say they're just hitting their stride in the post-season.

"Ît's playoffs — anything can happen," Zafiris said. "We've seen upsets already — so who knows?"

Nova Scotians

Nova Scotians who are still active in the QMJHL playoffs:

- Gatineau (1): F Jacob Conrad, Bridgewater
- Quebec Remparts (2): F Matt Brown, Bible Hill; D Brendan Duke, Cole Harbour.
- Saint John (3): F Stephen MacAulay, Cole Harbour; F Michael Kirkpatrick, North Sydney; F Steven Anthony, Halifax.
- Lewiston (2): D Ian Saab, Halifax; F Alex Zafiris, Halifax

Sports in brief

Kebs join teams leaving PBL

BASKETBALL. The Quebec Kebs formally disassociated with the Premier Basketball League in an anticipated move on Wednesday. The Kebs join the Halifax Rainmen and Saint John Mill Rats as teams that dropped out of the circuit because of concerns about officiating. **⊚ METRO**

Titans down at midget finals

HOCKEY. The Halifax
Titans dropped to 1-2 at
the Telus Cup Canadian
midget hockey
championship in St.
John's, N.L., on Wednesday. The Titans lost 9-3 to
the Lac St-Louis (Que.) Lions and face the London
(Ont.) Knights on Thursday. The semifinals are

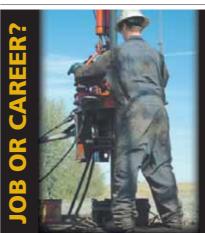
set for Saturday and the final on Sunday.

METRO

NASCAR driver confirms Antigonish race

AUTO RACING. NASCAR's David Ambrose has confirmed he will participate in the IWK 250 at Riverside International Speedway near Antigonish on July 22 and 23. He also raced in the event last year, finishing 19th. METRO





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Yankees power past Jays

Toronto has dropped four of five

Yankees slugger Mark Teixeira had three doubles and scored a run while Bartolo Colon was steady over sixplus innings as New York defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 6-2 on Wednesday night.

New York (10-6) scored three early runs off Jays starter Brett Cecil, who lasted five innings. Colon (1-1) allowed five hits and struck out seven to help the Yankees salvage a split of the two-game series at Rogers Centre.

J.P. Arencibia hit a solo homer for the Blue Jays (8-10), who fell three games behind the first-place Yan-kees in the American League East.

New York led 3-0 after two innings and put up two more runs in the fifth to chase Cecil (1-2), who gave up five earned runs, walked four batters and had four strikeouts.

43

YANKEES

New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez returned to the lineup after missing two games with a left oblique. He knocked in a run with a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning. Rodriguez drove a pitch to deep centre that scored Nick Swisher, who started the rally with a single and moved to third on a Teixeira double. Robinson Cano followed with another sacrifice fly to make it a 5-1 game.

Toronto loaded bases in the ninth before Rafael Soriano got the final two outs for his first save. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Thunder dominate Game 2

Kevin Durant scored 23 points, Russell Westbrook added 21 and the Oklahoma City Thunder built a huge first-half lead on their way to a 106-89 victory over the Denver Nuggets in Game 2 on Wednesday night.

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By e-mail: jennifer.wall@statcan.gc.ca or

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Crossword

12

15

3 Withered

5 Separate

7 Region

tically

9 Woe

10 "Oh. woe!"

11 Still others

19 Yours truly

24 Mayo container

25 Hearty brew

21 Witness

26 Aversion

Today's horoscope

T Aries March 21-April 20 As

moves into your sign, you will

be more charming than usual. **▼ Taurus** April 21-May 21

isn't much of one at all. Try not

II Gemini May 22-June 21 Sort

out your thoughts and realize

that you exaggerated the im-

portance of recent events.

Cancer June 22-July 22 You'll

enjoy your work today. As

such, you'll do a good job.

What you think is a problem

to get worked up about it.

Venus, planet of harmony,

28 Work with

4 Mexican entree

6 Detergent brand

8 Toward the rear, nau-

Across

1 Larger portion 5 Belle of the ball, mavbe

8 Enos' grandpa

12 Conception 13 Wrath

14 Missile shelter

15 Standard

16 Bando of baseball

17 Despot

18 Saw things in the dark?

20 Sleeping sickness

carrier

22 Mainander's memento

23 Slip up

24 Green gem

27 Full exposure 32 "The Greatest"

33 Helgen-berger se-

ries 34 "Barney Miller

actor Jack

35 Periods of relief

38 Mail carrier (Abbr) 39 Hall-of-Famer

Williams

40 Stannum 42 Not digital

45 Impact

49 For fear that

50 Novelist Radcliffe

52 Colorful fish

53 Appointment 54 Fond du -. Wis.

55 Toy block name

56 Lacked originality

57 Candle count 58 Skittish wildlife

2 Stench

Down 1 Have an objection 18 19 20 21 22 31 25 27 28 33 34 32 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 43 44 45 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

29 Length from here to

36 Struck repeatedly

37 Altar affirmative

42 "M*A*S*H" star

30 Bribe

31 "Help!"

38 Open out

43 Tide type

46 Duel tool

47 Zoo structure

48 Hammer-wielding

44 Festive

deity

51 Kvetch

41 In that case

13

16

➤ Yesterday's answer

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Sudoku

10 11

17

	5	3	6		8	4	2	
6	7						1	9
		4	7		1	6		
	8			6			9	
		7	2		9	5		
7	1						4	3
	2	8	9		3	1	6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

Ð.	3	7	1	5	0	0	4	2
6	2	5	3	8	4	п	1	7
4	1	8	7	6	2	9	5	3
7	5	9	4	2	1	3	ö	6
8	6	2	5	3	7	4	9	1
1	4	3	6	n	9	2	7	5
2	7	1	8	4	3	5	6	9
5	0	0	9	1	5	7	2	4
5	9	4	2	7	0	1	3	8

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weeks we're apart just aren't as good. being away from you turns me into a total puppy child.**FROM** @LUCKYJODI

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OMEN TEE AYES For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes,

Ω Leo Inly 23-Aug.23 You don't

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have to take life too seriously. The purpose is to have fun. **W Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Do you feel someone is cheating Forget about getting even

you? Most likely, it's just your fears getting the best of you. ← Libra Sept. 23-0ct. 23 It's a great day for affairs of the heart. Put away anger. Love makes the world go 'round.

M Scorpio oct. 24-Nov. 22 If vou need a break take one. no matter how much others try to persuade you not to.

₹ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

A little charm will go a long way over the next 24 hours. り Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

with your enemies. Turn them into friends instead. Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Something you hear might make you look at certain people in a different light.

H Pisces Feb. 19-March 20.

Don't worry about cash. You'll find ways to make ends meet. SALLY BROMPTON







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